

AMES AUDUBON

NEWSLETTER

Vol. II, No: 9

Ames, Iowa

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 10, 8 p.m., Kildee Auditorium, I.S.U. Illustrated program on East African wildlife, with emphasis on conservation efforts, by R. J. G. LeBreton, Iowa State graduate student from Kenya. See below for more details.

Friday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. on TV channel 13. One-hour program on "Survival on the Prairie". Story of the U.S. prairie, including Iowa.

Friday, February 20, 8 p.m., Kildee Auditorium, I.S.U. Our second Audubon Wildlife Film program. Entitled "The Vanishing Sea", it features full-color motion pictures with natural sound, on animal and plant life in the great basin region in western U.S. Narrated in person by its photographer, Robert W. Davison. See page 2 for more details.

Monday, February 23, 8 p.m., room 120, Kildee Hall, I.S.U. Ames Audubon Executive Board meeting. Open to all members. Please attend.

Iowa State Environmental Teach-In Programs for February.

Thursday, February 12, 7:30 p.m., Mackay Auditorium, I.S.U. Program on environmental pollution, with 3 distinguished speakers. Dr. H. Seidel, Ames pollution control head, will discuss water pollution; Dr. W. Shaw of I.S.U. will discuss air pollution; and Dr. E. R. Bowman of I.S.U. will discuss other forms of pollution.

Monday, February 16, 7:30 p.m., Sun Room, I.S.U. Memorial Union. Discussion of local environmental problems. Speakers to be announced.

Wednesday, February 18, 7:30 p.m., Sun Room, I.S.U. Memorial Union. Discussion of state environmental problems. Speakers to be announced.

An interesting line-up of Audubon and other programs and other activities for March will be presented in the next Ames Audubon Newsletter.

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"SAFARI TO EAST AFRICA"

We are happy and proud to present Mr. R. J. G. LeBreton, I.S.U. graduate student from Kenya, in East Africa, who will present a program on the current situation concerning wildlife conservation in his home region. He has travelled widely throughout the world-famous national parks and game reserves in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, photographed wildlife, and studied, first-hand, the critical conditions now facing many species in that area. He will show full-color slides of many animals and birds, including the lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, hippo, zebra, giraffe, cape buffalo, wildebeast, flamingo, white pelican, secretary bird, and others. He will discuss the distributions of wildlife, their historic migrations, the effects of seasonal weather changes, the changing impact of human populations, other threats to wildlife, and current programs to protect the wildlife. Mr. LeBreton is highly knowledgeable on the current situation. We are sure you will find him to be a very articulate speaker. We urge all Audubon members to make a special effort to attend this program. Mr. Eugene Severson will represent Ames Audubon and introduce our featured speaker. That's on Tuesday, February 10, at 8 p.m. in Kildee Auditorium on the Iowa State campus. See you there.

"The Vanishing Sea"

This is the intriguing title of our second Audubon Wildlife Film program to be presented on Friday, February 20, at 8 p.m. in Kildee Auditorium on the I.S.U. campus. Featured will be a 90-minute action program of full-color motion pictures with natural sound on plant and animal life in their natural habitats in the Great Basin region of the western U.S. Many ages ago, a vast inland sea covered this region. Great Salt Lake in Utah is its last visible remains, and is the focal point of this fascinating film study. It was photographed by Mr. Robert W. Davison, eminent wildlife and nature photographer, who will narrate the program in person. Many species are featured, including marine life, mammals, and birds. Most of these are now threatened by the relentless onslaught of man. Mr. Davison is a native of Colorado where, in ranch country, he first became aware of and grew to appreciate the plight of native wildlife. He has produced over 100 educational and documentary outdoor films and has contributed to the TV series, Animal World, Wild Kingdom, Animal Secrets, and Audubon Wildlife Theatre.

This film, like all Audubon Wildlife Films, is a professional production of the highest calibre, universally recognized as tops in its field. These films are wholesome family entertainment, but much more than that. They bring the message of concern for our fellow creatures on earth and the need for man to learn more about them so they can be preserved from extinction. The study of nature, and wildlife in particular, provide modern man with an enjoyable means to preserve his mental balance in this crazy world. When man becomes concerned only with his own species, his interests degenerate into such symptoms of modern society all too common today. Animals are vital from an ecological standpoint, too. This is a very fine series brought to Ames by Ames Audubon. But its continuation depends on the support of all who profess an interest in conservation. Please plan to attend and invite your friends, too. Proceeds will go to support activities of Ames Audubon and the I.S.U. Botany Club. Tickets are \$1.25 for adults and 75¢ for students, as voted on at our last meeting on January 14.

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ENVIRONMENTAL TEACH-IN AT IOWA STATE

Students at Iowa State have organized a very commendable series of programs on environmental problems, as part of a nation-wide project. Different issues are to be discussed each week with the best available speakers featured. The programs for the rest of February are noted on page 1. These provide an excellent opportunity for local citizens to learn more on the issues involved. We highly recommend that these programs be attended when possible.

It is very good to see that our younger people are becoming serious about the critical threats to the very existence of all life on earth. (Try to read, for example, the article on the Environmental Crisis in the Feb. 2 issue of Time Magazine, brought to our attention by Mrs. Bond, Ames Audubon member.) However, we would like to note that organizations such as National Audubon having been working very hard on these same problems for many years (close to 70 years for Audubon), one needs only to go back and read Audubon literature of decades ago to realize this. Audubon and other private citizens' organizations are even now continuing these activities on a crash basis. We back the idea of the Environmental Teach-in all the way. We of Ames Audubon also welcome the active participation of these students in our various projects and programs.

A REPORT ON THE RACHEL CARSON LECTURE

Dr. Jerome A. Klun, distinguished USDA and ISU Entomologist, discussed "The New Horizon of Insect Control" as featured speaker for the 2nd annual Ames Audubon Rachel Carson Lecture on January 29. Dr. Klun is internationally recognized for his pioneering research in the area of biological control of the European corn borer. He discussed his research in isolating and synthesizing the substance emitted by the female borer in attracting males at mating time, and his work in developing tests for resistance by plants to corn borer damage. He also discussed the use of other so-called biological controls for insects, including hormones for regulating life-cycle changes, predatory insects, and bacterial controls. He noted that coming emphasis will be on integrated systems of pest control. Chemical control would be used only where and when absolutely necessary and in a manner that is least destructive to beneficial regulating factors in the environment. The system would make use of naturally occurring insect parasites, predators and pathogens, as well as certain biotic agents artificially increased or introduced. Basically, this system relies on an ecological approach to pest management.

Dr. Klun stated that, in order to accomplish this type of control, considerable more research on the physiology of insects will be needed. And this requires much more money than is currently being spent. For example, less than \$10 million are now being spent annually by the USDA in basic physiological studies and methods of biological control. On the local level, Iowa State University has practically no funds committed to research in biological control methods. This is one area where public pressures for more funding of research efforts at both the state and federal levels are urgently needed if we are to reduce environmental pollution with dangerous pesticides. In this regard, Dr. Klun quoted from Albert Schweitzer, who said, "Man has lost the capacity to foresee and forestall. He will end by destroying the earth." If we had more scientists with the ability and dedication of Dr. Klun, our present plight might not be so critical.

While only about 135 persons attended the program, all listened intently to every word. After the talk, Dr. Klun demonstrated the effect of the synthetic sex attractant. The talk was a most fitting one for the Rachel Carson Lecture. We foresee a bright future for this series. We only regret that more people did not show up, including our own club members. The talk also would have provided much food for thought for more of the students currently involved in the Environmental Teach-in, who were not present. Also, we only regard with dismay the lack of any report on this most significant lecture in any of the local papers. The talk did not contain any catch phrases or dramatic statements that catch headlines, but was a sober, thoughtful appraisal of the present situation and merited a wider report.

Mrs. Frances Carter represented Ames Audubon and introduced Dr. Klun. Also helping out were Normand Hamilton and Ruth Bereskin. Their efforts are sincerely appreciated.

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All Ames Audubon members will be receiving a copy of our new 11-page Report on the Everglades National Park. This was prepared as an outgrowth of our program on the Everglades last December.

The theme for the 1970 National Audubon Convention will be "A Question for America: What Is Progress?" In Seattle in May.

RESPIRE FOR BROOKSIDE PARK AND AMES HIGH PRAIRIE

The following letter has been sent to Mayor Stuart Smith, on behalf of the Ames Audubon Society, as recommended by membership at our January 14 meeting. A copy also was sent to President Robert Parks of Iowa State University. As noted on each membership card of the Ames Audubon Society, our stated objectives are "To Safeguard and Improve the Quality of Our Natural Environment". We also have a policy of recognizing and commending others in the community who are actively working toward the same goals. As an example, Ames Audubon last year inaugurated our annual "Conservationist of the Year" award. Mr. Lloyd Kurtz was the worthy recipient of the first award and this recognition has been widely acclaimed. We will be voting soon on the recipient of the 1970 award.

The letter follows:

Dear Mayor Smith:

We of the Ames Audubon Society would like to highly commend and compliment the Ames Planning Commission on its recently announced recommendation that Elwood Drive be rerouted to bypass Brookside Park and the Ames High Prairie, in contrast to previously announced plans. Brookside Park is one of Ames' favorite recreational and nature study areas and the Ames High prairie is an irreplaceable outdoor natural classroom. This far-sighted policy by the agencies responsible, if fully implemented, will help assure our citizens a community that is well-balanced in its growth because its leaders are concerned about the quality of our natural environment. We believe this is just as important as good roads in making Ames a better place in which to live.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts in this regard. We also highly commend the authorities of Iowa State University for committing valuable University property for right-of-way, making it possible to bypass the treasured natural sites.

respectfully yours,
Ames Audubon Society

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A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ames Audubon Newsletter:

The US. Congress currently is considering legislation which, if passed, would be a disaster for sound conservation of our national forests. The so-called National Timber Supply Act (S.1832 and H.R.12025) is being promoted by the lumber industry and only a great outpouring of letters from concerned citizens can defeat it.

This legislation would eliminate the multiple-use concept of our national forests in favor of intensive management for the sole purpose of producing lumber. This ignores the recreational and scenic values of our wilderness areas, their use as watersheds for clean rivers and erosion control, and their protection of wildlife habitat. The argument is given that we can afford more intensive harvesting because new and better methods. Proponents also argue that the bill is needed to meet increased housing demands, despite the fact that the U.S. is currently exporting 4 billion board-feet of prime lumber a year.

It is ironic that this raid on our national forests is being promoted at a time of rising concern over environmental problems. You can help defeat this bill by writing now to Congressman Smith (Neal) and to Senators Jack Miller and Harold Hughes.

Signed , Dr. David K. Hoffman, Ames, Iowa
(continued on next page)

NEW MEMBERS FOR AMES AUDUBON

We are very happy to report 2 new Family and 3 new Adult memberships in Ames Audubon. The word is getting around to more and more of our concerned citizens—both young and young-at-heart—that Ames Audubon is a responsible conservation organization with a program geared to meet the needs of the time. People, as individuals, more and more have the feeling of utter frustration when faced with the increasingly calamitous environmental problems of our day. They are now beginning to appreciate that their best hope, perhaps only hope, to make their voice heard lies in an organization such as Audubon, which is nationwide in scope and action. Over 300 groups such as ours, from one end of the nation to the other, are now organizing under the Audubon banner for the great conservation battles that lie just ahead.

We sincerely welcome our new members and renew our pledge to continue to do all we can to merit their continued support. They are:

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Smithson and family, of Ames. They have had a long-time concern for environmental problems, especially as concern the next generation, now growing up.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Habenschuss, of Ames. He is a graduate student in Chemistry at I.S.U., a member of National Audubon, and very worried about current threats to wildlife and the environment, in general.

Mr. Ken Russell, of Ames. He is an I.S.U. graduate student in Wildlife Biology, doing some important research on the pheasant. Ken is a member of National Audubon and highly concerned about the current environmental situation, and anxious to try and do something about it.

Mrs. Irene L. Allen, of Ames. She backs our conservation efforts.

Mr. Joseph K. Brown, of Des Moines. He and Mrs. Brown are also members of Des Moines Audubon, have many friends in Ames, and are behind our efforts all the way.

We want to acknowledge the efforts of Jim Rod in helping to gain new members for our club. Bringing in new members is the best proof of support for our club that any member can show. Each of our members needs to make a greater effort in this regard. How do you measure up? New members are the life-blood of an organization such as ours. Our effectiveness in promoting our responsible conservation causes is largely related to the size of membership that will back up effective leadership. Give us the names and addresses of prospective new members. We'll put them on our mailing lists and go from there. Thank you.

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(continued from page 4—letter to the editor)

Editor's note: The Sierra Club Bulletin of May, 1969, has 2 highly reliable and informative articles relating to the National Timber Supply Act. They provide a detailed professional appraisal of the situation which refutes the arguments of the lumber industry and points out the real dangers in the bill. We would be highly interested to learn the views of the Iowa State Forestry Department on this important and controversial issue.

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All members of Ames Audubon who have copies of back issues of the National Audubon Magazine are urged to bring them to the February 10 program on East African Wildlife for exchange. We have a good supply on hand and want to distribute these to various members. Check at our display table after the program. Another opportunity will be at the Executive Board meeting on Monday, February 23, in 120 Kildee Hall, at 8 p.m. All members are welcome to our Executive Board meetings.

Dove Hunting for Iowa ?

Perhaps you may have seen in the Des Moines register recently that a new effort is being made to legalize the public hunting of mourning doves in Iowa. Information last year was that the bill was to be introduced at that time, but it wasn't. Perhaps the unfavorable publicity given the proposal, partly as a result of the public forum on dove hunting, sponsored by Ames Audubon last January (1969), may have delayed action. It is generally agreed that the mourning dove does not consume economically important grain, is not a nuisance to people or buildings, and does not provide sufficient food to cover the cost of hunting. Besides, the overwhelming majority of people (based on a private, unbiased poll) enjoy having the dove around. Thus the drive to permit hunting can only raise serious questions as to its motives. Copies of talks on the dove situation at the 1969 forum by W. F. Miller and Ben Bereskin are available upon request. If you wish to express your opinion, write to your local representative in Des Moines. Or write to Mr. Charles F. Balloon, Chairman of Senate Conservation Committee, or to Mr. Dale L. Tieden, Chairman of the House Conservation Committee, c/o Iowa Capital Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

REPORT FROM ED BRIGHAM

Upper Midwest Representative of the National Audubon Society

Ed is doing a tremendous job. Space does not permit a full report here. He is in the very front lines of the great conservation battles raging all around us, working long hours fighting to prevent the threatening collapse of our natural environment. We support Ed 100% but we need more active support at the local level to make his efforts more effective. Please help. Right now, Ed's major efforts are directed toward banning the use of DDT, at all levels. He informed us that Repr. Michael Blouin and 2 colleagues recently introduced a bill in the Iowa House to ban the sale, use, and transport of DDT in Iowa. This bill is under advisement by the House Environmental Protection Committee. Mr. Blouin is a member of the committee and Mr. Andrew Varley is chairman. Ed strongly urges that we, as individuals, should write either at once to voice our support for this bill. c/o Ia. Capital Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

A NOTE TO NON-MEMBERS OF AMES AUDUBON

We would be happy to continue sending our newsletters to you, under no obligation, whatsoever. All we ask is that you send us the following form with your name and address filled in. If you have already sent in such a form, ignore this reminder. Thank you.

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Yes, I would like to continue receiving the Ames Audubon Newsletter in the future, with the full understanding there will be no obligation, whatsoever, to me or to my family.

Mail to:

Ames Audubon Newsletter Name _____
2414 Kellogg St. or other No. _____
Ames, Iowa 50010 City, State & zip _____

Check here if you also wish membership information.